

Strange and Remarkable
Prophecies and Predictions

O F
The Holy, Learned and Excellent

James Usher,

Late Lord Arch-Bishop of *Armagh*, and
ord Primate of *Ireland*, giving an Account
foretelling,

I. The Rebellion in *Ireland*, forty Years
before it came to pass..

II. The Confusions and Miseries of *Eng-
land* in Church and State.

III. The Death of King *Charles* the 1st.

IV. His own Poverty and Want.

V. The Divisions in *England* in Matters
Religion.

Lastly, Of a great and terrible Persecuti-
on which shall fall upon the Reform'd
Churches, by the Papists, wherein the then
PE should be chiefly concern'd.

Written by the Person who heard it from this
Excellent Person's own Mouth, and now publish'd,
chiefly to perswade us to that Repentance and
Reformation, which can only prevent our Ruin
and Destruction.

the Lord said, *Shall I hide from Abraham the Thing
which I do?* Gen. 18. 17.

Printed by G. Needham in Sycamore-Alley, 1717:



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The Wonders of the Year, 1716.

This Year puts an End to the Tyranny of Antichrist, or the Pope of Rome, and his Hierarchy.

y. This Year puts an End to the Tyranny of the several Idolatrous Kingdoms in the Roman Empire.

y. This Year puts an End to the persecuted and afflicted State of the Church.

After which, will follow the Conversion and Restoration of the Jews; the entire Ruine and Destruction of the Beast's, and Antichrist's Kingdom; and a flourishing State of the Church for a Thousand Years.

THESE Assertions, however surprising, will I hope, be made good, by proving the following particulars.

1st. *The Year 1716, is pointed at in St. John's Vision of Woman with Child, and her Flight into the Wilderness, Revelat. 12.*

2^d. *The same Year is meant in his Vision of the two Witnesses, prophesying in Sackcloth, Revelat. 11. 3.*

3^d. *The same Year is aimed at in his Vision of the Inner and Outer Courts of the Temple. Revelat. 11. 1, 2.*

4th. *This Year is aimed at in the Vision of the Ten- and Beast, or Roman Empire, Rev. 13. 5, 7.*

5^{thly}. *This Year is aimed at in St. John's Vision of the seven- and Beast with two Horns, like a Lamb; and in Daniel's Vision of the Little Horn, or the Pope of Rome, Rev. 13.*

6th. *etc. Dan. 7. 25.*

Lastly, *This Year compleats Daniel's 2300 Evenings, when the Sanctuary is to be cleansed, and no longer trodden under Foot, Dan. 8. 13, 14.*

BEfore I proceed to the Proof of these Particulars, I shall make some necessary Observations.

Observation 1. Daniel, who lived in *Chaldea* and *Persia*, used their Years of 360 Days; and *St. John*, who lived in the *Roman Empire*, used that Empire's Computation of 365 or $365\frac{1}{4}$ Days.

Observation 2. In those Prophecies both of *Daniel* and *St. John*, which concern Christianity, the Times of the *Messias*, and the Church of the *Gentiles*, a Day signifies a Year; and by consequence 7 Days, 7 Years;

This will appear from the following Considerations.

1. It was not at all agreeable to the Nature and Genius of these Prophecies to make use of plain Words. Hence it was, that in *Dan. 7. 8, 24, 25.* We find Times and Laws given into the Hands of a Little Horn, for a Time and Times, and a Division of Time. It is easy to perceive here, that by Horn, something else is meant; and that by Time, Times, &c. some certain Space of Time or determined Number of Days or Years, is to be understood.

2. It was not at all consistent with the Design of God in these Prophecies, to make every Thing evident and unquestionable by plain and express Words; for that would in all likelihood have hindred their fulfilling.

For Instance, Had God said by *Daniel*, that immediately after so many precise Years, the *Messias* should be off; can we imagine that the Jews would have crucified him at that very Time? But those Years being obscurely delivered by 70 Weeks, *Dan. 9, 24.* The Mystery of the Prophecy was hid from them.

3. On other Occasions also, a Day is often put for a Year, in other Parts of Scripture. Thus, *Numb. 14.*

34. *Your Children*, said God to the disobedient *Israelites*, *shall wander in the Wilderness forty Years*; after the Number of the Days in which ye searched the Land, *except forty Days, each Day for a Year, shall you bear your Iniquities, even forty Years.*

4. Not one of the Prophecies has yet been fulfilled according to the Litteral and Ordinary Acceptation, of bare Days; but all that are expired already, have been fulfilled, according to the Acceptation of Days for Years; and therefore there can be no Reason

doubt of ... fulfilling of the Rest, according to the same
Acceptation of Days for Years.

5. When Daniel, Chap. 7. 25. says, of the little Horn,
and the Beast with Ten Horns, that their Tyranny and
Dominion should be for a Time, Times, and a Part;
and St. John, Rev. 11. 2. That the Outer Court of the
Temple shall be troden under Foot for the Space of forty two
Months; and Rev. 12. 6, 14. That the Time, wherein
the Woman should be fed in the Wilderness from the Face of
the Serpent, should be for a Time, Times and a half, or 1260
Days; and Rev. 11. 3. That the two Witnesses should
Prophecie 1260 Days. It is plain that Days are put for
Years. For it is not to be imagin'd, that so great a Part
of the Prophetick Scriptures should be confin'd to so
small and inconsiderable a Space, as 3 Years and a half,
or 1260 Days; as if that short Interval must have more
Regard paid to it, than above 2000 Years beside; and as
if almost nothing else remarkable should happen in the
whole Duration of the Christian Church till the End of
the World, but what was to be confin'd to these three
Years and a half.

6. It is not only very improbable, but plainly impossible,
that so many Things, and of such Quality, as are to be
perform'd in this Time, shou'd all be done in three single
Years and half.

Ten Kingdoms are to be tounded at the same Hour,
with the Beast, Rev. 17. People, and Nations, and
Tongues to serve and obey the Beast; He is to make
War with the Saints and overcome them; to cause all
that dwell on the Earth to Worship him. Chap. 13. Ba-
bylon is to ride the Beast so long, that all Nations shall
Drink the Wine of her Fornication, and all Kings of
the Earth commit Fornication with her, and the like.
Now surely all this should ask more than 3 Years and a
half, or 1260 Days.

Following therefore the primary and most eminent Ex-
ample of the 70 Weeks Prophecy; where, by the Con-
fession both of the Jewish and Christian Church, a Day is
taken for a Year.

Observation 3. The four famous Prophecies: 1. Of the
Outer Court of the Temple troden down by the Gentiles.
2. Of the two Witnesses propheying in Sackcloth.

5. Of the Woman nourished in the Wilderness. 4. Of the prevailing Tyranny of the Beast with 7 Heads and 10 Horns, are entirely cotemporary, beginning and ending at the same Time. The Arguments follow.

1. Each of these Prophecies do exactly contain the same Duration of Time, and therefore it is exceeding probable, that they begin and end together. *The Outer Court is to be troden under Foot 42 Months, (i. e. reckoning 30 Days to a Month, 1260 Days or Years.) Rev. 11. 2, The two Witnesses were to prophesy 1260 Days or Years, clothed in Sackcloth. v. 3. The Woman fed into the Wilderness, and was to be fed there 1260 Days, Rev. 12. 6, or as it is afterwards, v. 14. For a Time and Times, and half a Time. † that is, 1260 Days. And Power was given to the Beast to make War 42 Months, or 1260 Days, Rev. 13. 5.*

† Observe here, That St. John using Daniel's Phrase, of a Time Times, &c. makes use of the Chaldaean Computation, of 360 Days to a Year; which multiplied by 3½ makes 1260.

2. The Date of the Beast with 7 Heads and 10 Horns, and of the abiding of the Woman in the Wilderness, is one and the same; because they both begin upon the Woman's Arrival in the Wilderness; after the casting down of the great Red Dragon or Satan; Rev. 12. 13, &c. and 13. 1, 2. Now the Duration of these two being equal, and their Beginning at the same time, it follows, they must end together also.

3. The End of the 1260 Days of the Witnesses prophesying in Sackcloth, is also the Conclusion of the prevailing Tyranny of the Beast with 7 Heads and 10 Horns, as is evident from Rev. 11. 12, &c. For at the Time of the Witnesses Ascent into Heaven, or the End of their Sackcloth Condition, it is said, *The second Woe is past, and behold, the third cometh quickly: And the seventh Angel sounded; and there were great Voices in Heaven, saying; the Kingdoms of this World, (or of the Beast) are become the Kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ, and He is to Reign for ever and ever.* Now the Duration of these two being equal, and they ending at the same Time; it follows, they begin together also.

4. The 42 Months of the treading down of the Outer Court

Court by the *Gentiles*, and the 1260 Days of the Witnesses prophesying in Sackcloth, are directly and fully cotemporary, as appears by their immediate and mutual Connexion, *Rev. II. 2, 3.*

So that upon the whole, since it particularly appears, that the third and fourth Prophecies are entirely cotemporary; the 2d, and 4th, the same, and the 1st, and 2d, the like; it follows, that all Four are universally and entirely cotemporary from the Beginning to the End.

4. *Observ.* The second Beast in the *Revel.* which is also stil'd elsewhere, by *St. John*, the *False Prophet*; the *Little Horn* by *Daniel*; and the *Man of Sin*, by *St. Paul*; is in general very much cotemporary with the first Beast with 7 Heads and 10 Horns; and as he begins no very long Time after him, so does he continue till his utter Destruction.

That the second Beast in the *Revelations* is the same with the *False Prophet*, is evident by their Descriptions compar'd together. *Rev. 13. 11, &c. and 19. 20.* That the *Little Horn*, *Dan. 7.* is the same with this second Beast, or *False Prophet*, will appear by their Characters: *Dan. 7. 8, 11, 20, 25, and Rev. 13. 11, 12, 15.* And that the *Man of Sin* in *St. Paul* is the same with this second Beast, or *Little Horn*, is also evident from their Descriptions, 2 *Thes. 2 Dan. 7. Rev. 13. 13, 14. and 19. 20.*

I must desire the Reader to consult and compare the Text quoted; For to set them down at length would swell the Book to double the Price intended.

That the *Little Horn*, second Beast, *False Prophet* or *Man of Sin*, is in the main Cotemporary with the first Beast with 7 Heads and 10 Horns, is evident by the following Arguments.

1. They have no very different Duration of their Dominion; For the Beast with 7 Heads and 10 Horns, as we have already seen, has Power to make War forty two Months, *Rev. 13. 5.* And the *Little Horn* has a Time and Times, and a Division of Time given him, that is, three Years and one Month, (a Month being the most natural Division, or Part of a Year,) or 37 Prophetick Months, that is, but 5 such Months fewer than the other Beast. So that since the second Beast is expressly said to arise after the other, and his Duration but five Months

Months shorter than the others ; 'Tis evident their Dominion must End about the same Time. This is confirmed By St. John and Daniel : We have already seen that the First Beast's 42 Months End at the Beginning of the seventh Trumpet, Rev. 11. 15. or the Commencement of Christ's Kingdom ; and the second Beast's Time, Times, &c. expire at the same Commencement of Christ's Kingdom. Daniel 7. 21, 22, 25, 26. Moreover after the rise of the second Beast, we read, that He and the first Beast have an Intimate Relation and Agreement, with each other, and are inseparable Companions. Rev. 13. 12, 14, 17. And Lastly, we read, that they were both taken and destroyed together.

Since therefore the *Little Horn*, or *second Beast*, *Man of Sin*, or *False Prophet*, is to have the same common Destruction with the *first Beast*, and his Duration is shorter only by 5 Months, or 150 Days, that is, Years, than the Duration of the *First Beast*, it follows, that his Rise commences 150 Years after the Rise of the *First Beast*, and consequently 150 Years after the Beginning of the *treading under Foot the Outer Court of the Temple, of the Witnesses Prophecy in Sackcloth, and of the Woman's Abode in the Wilderness*. So that the Time of the Duration of the Tyranny of this *Second Beast*, *Little Horn*, &c. consists of 1110 Years, as will appear, when I come to shew, that hereby is meant *Antichrist* himself, that is, the *Pope of Rome*, and his subordinate Hierarchy.

5th. *Observation*. By the four Kingdoms, Daniel 2. are understood, the *Babylonian*, the *Persian*, the *Græcian*, and *Roman*. This Proposition is so plain at first Sight, and own'd by every own, that there's no need to go any farther upon the Proof of it, than barely to read the Words of the Prophecy, and to compare them with History.

All that is requisite to be done here, is to prove the *Roman Empire* must be the fourth or last of these Kingdoms. This will appear from these following Considerations.

I. The general Description of the fourth Kingdom can agree to no other but the *Roman Empire*. The fourth Kingdom was to be more considerable, strong, powerful, and vigorous, than any of the three forego-

ing; which was exactly true, and notoriously known of the *Roman Empire*.

2. The Fourth Kingdom was to be of a different Kind and Form of Government from that of the three Former. This also exactly agrees with the *Roman Empire*, and its various Forms of Government, whereas the other Three were all along Absolute Monarchies.

3. The Kingdom, or Church of our Saviour Christ, was to be set up during the Continuance of these four Kingdoms, *Dan. 2. 44, 45. and 7. 9, 13, 14.* Now 'tis well known that this happened during the *Roman Empire*.

4. The 4th. Kingdom was to continue in Being till our Saviour's Second Coming to set up his own Kingdom. *Dan. 7. 21, 22, 11.* And this agrees to None but the *Roman Empire* which alone is still in Being, the other being extinct many Ages ago.

6 *Observation.* The Beast with 7 Heads and 10 Horns, *Rev. 13. and 17.* is the same Beast with that, *Dan. 7. to wit, the Roman Empire*; and *Babylon*, that Great Harlot, *Rev. 17.* That rides upon the Beast, or rules over that Empire, is the City of *Rome*.

The former Part of this Observation is so clear from a Comparison of their Descriptions by *Daniel* and *St. John*, that there's no need to enlarge upon it. As to the latter that the *Woman*, or *Great Whore*, that rides upon the Beast, is the City of *Rome*: Let it be observed, that *Babylon* the Great, the Mother of Harlots, and Abominations of the Earth, as she is stil'd, *Rev. 17. 5.* is that City which sitteth upon 7 Mountains, in the express Words of the Angel, *v. 9.* The seven Heads of the Beast are seven Mountains, upon which the *Woman* sitteth. Now this was as known a Description of the City of *Rome*, in the Days of *St. John*, as, That great City of *England*, which is situate on the River of *Thames*, would be of *London* at this Day.

The Angel farther adds; *v. 18.* *The Woman, which thou sawest, is that Great City, which reigneth over the Kings of the Earth!* This, 'tis so plain, can belong to no other, than the City of *Rome*, that not only the Reformed Writers, but even *Cardinal Belarmine* himself (that great Champion of *Rome*) confesses, *Johannes in Apocalypsi passim Romam vocat Babylonem, i. e. St. John* in the

Revelations does all along call *Rome* by the Name of *Babylon*, *Bell. de Rom. Pont. L. 3. C. 13.*

7. *Observ.* The 7 Kings, *Rev. 17. 9, 10. &c.* are the 7 different Forms of Government in the *Roman Empire* before the Rise of the 10 Kingdoms, and the *Eighth*, which is also said to be one of the *Seven*, is the last Form of Government, under those 10 Kings, in an Antichristian State, till its Destruction.

I have already shewn, that the Beast with 7 Heads and 10 Horns, *Rev. 17. 7. &c.* is the *Roman Empire*, when it is governed by 10 supreme Governors; Which it was formerly, under the *Decemviri*, and is not, at the Time of the Angel's Interpretations, because it was then govern'd by a single Person *Domitian*, and shall hereafter arise out of the *Sea*, or *Abyss*, at the rise of the 10 Kingdoms, and shall go at last into Perdition, as well as the other Forms of Government before it. And the World shall wonder at the Beast, which thus was formerly, under the *Decemviri* and is not, at present, under the *Cæsars*, and yet is, in reality, still existing, that is, the Beast or Empire it self is in Being now, tho' 'tis not an Empire with 10 Supreme Governours, and so cannot be call'd a Beast with 10 Horns such an one, as we are now describing. The 7 Heads, 9. signify the 7 Mountains, upon which the *Woman* sits [viz. *Mons, Palatinus, Capitolinus, Quirinalis, Cælius, Esquilinus, Aventinus, and Viminalis.*] And they also signify 7 Kings, or Forms of Government, belonging to the 7 Hills of *Rome*; five whereof are fallen; [1. That under One, or the Kings, at first; 2d. That under two, or of *Consuls*; 3d. That under three, or of the double *Tribunat*; 4. That of the two Sets of *Tribunes of Consular Power*. 5. That under 10, or of the *Decemviri*.] One is at Present in Power, that under a single Person, or the *Cæsars*. The Other is not yet come, that under five [viz. *Galerius, Licinius, Maxentius, Constantinus, and Maximus*, all Emperors at once;] and when he cometh, he continues but a short Space; [That sett of Emperors reigning only 3 Years, or a little more in the Beginning of the 4th Century.] And the Beast, which shall arise with 7 Heads and 10 Horns, which truly was once in being, under the *Decemviri*, and is not so now, under the *Cæsars*, He is the *Eighth*; He shall be exceeding different from the

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former Government under the *Decemviri*, but yet the same Empire, under the same Number of Governors ; and therefore 'tis of the seven, and in Common with the rest, shall go into Perdition.

Note here, That the Reason, why the last King, or Form of Roman Government, tho' it consisted of the same Number of Governors, as the *Decemviri* were, and so was the revival of an ancient, and not the Erecting a new form of Government, it was of the Seven ; yet it is distinguish'd from them, and still'd an *Eighth* also, because these last ten Supreme Governors, were not to have the Sovereignty of the City of *Rome* and the Parts adjacent, as the *Decemviri* had, but only of the Provinces : For it is well known that soon after the Division of the *Roman Empire* into 10 Kingdoms, the Bishop of *Rome*, or *Pope*, obtain'd the Sovereignty of that City, and the Ecclesiastical State, and has possessed them ever since.

8. *Observ.* The Inner Court of *Ezekiel's Temple*, Ch. 40. 1, &c. was to the Outer, as 1 to $3\frac{1}{2}$, or 360 to 1260. For according to the Computation of Learned Men the Outer Court alone contain'd 157500 square Cubits, and the Inner 45000. So that it is very easy to observe, that according to the present Assertion, the Inner was the Outer as 1 to $3\frac{1}{2}$, or 360 to 1260.

From hence I infer, that since the Outer Court was to be given to the Gentiles, or Antichristian Kings for 1260 Years, Rev. 11. 2. And since as the Outer Court is to the Inner, so is 1260 to 360 ; and since the State of the Church represented by the Inner Court, must be prior to, and more pure than that represented by the Outer Court, because the Inner is the Center, from which the Outer is derived, and the more Holy of the two : It follows, that the Inner Court refers to a pure and primitive State of the Church for 360 Years.

If then we add 360 to A. D. 96. the Year, when these Visions were seen by St. John, we have the End of the pure State of the Church, and the Beginning of its Antichristian State, A. D. 456. And by adding 1260 Years to 456, we have the End of the Antichristian State, and the Beginning of our Saviour's Kingdom thereupon, A. D. 1716.

9. *Observ.* The Woman with Child, and in pain to
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be delivered, while the Struggle between *Michael* and the *Dragon* lasted, *Rev. 12. 1, &c.* relates to the great Troubles and Difficulties, which the Church underwent, before it arriv'd at the Throne of the Empire upon the Conversion of the Emperor *Constantine*, and includes the Space of 280 Years. Her stay before, and her Passage into the Wilderness relate to the Time of the Churches Protection under the Christian Emperors, 142 Years. Her Abode in the Wilderness refers to the Time of the Churches Obscurity and Affliction under Antichrist for 1260 Years.

It is generally agreed by the Interpreters, that the Church is represented by the Woman with Child, and why? But to exhibit to us the Duration of the first Struggles and Pangs of Christianity, before the Emperor became a Christian, by the Time from the Conception to the Birth in Women with Child, that is, 280 Days, or 40 Weeks. The Interval between the Birth, and the Woman's Arrival in the Wilderness, corresponds to the State of a Woman after Delivery, who is long unfit for a Journey, and is supposed remote from any Wilderness; so that it must be a considerable Time, ere she can be imagined to arrive there. And this signifies the Interval between the Conversion of the Emperors to Christianity, and the Rise of the Antichristian Kings, when the Church is supposed to arrive in the Wilderness, which state lasted 143 Years, as I shall prove hereafter. And as to the last State of the Church in the Wilderness, it is expressly said to be 1260 Days or Years, during the Reign of Antichrist, till the Commencement of Christ's Kingdom. If then to A. D. 33. the Year of our Saviour's Resurrection, according to the best *Chronologers* (See Dr. *Whitby's Chronological Index*) we add 280 Years, the Time of the Woman with Child, we have the End of the last Hea-then Persecution, and the Conversion of the Emperor *Constantine* A. D. 313. If we add to that Number 142 Years, the Time for the Woman's Passage into the Wilderness; we have the Interval of the Churches Protection, under Christian Emperors, till A. D. 455. And if we add to that last Number the 1260 Years of the Churches Affliction under the Antichristian Powers, we shall, as before have the End of A. D. 1715.

or the Beginning of 1716. for the Commencing of Christ's Kingdom, upon the fall of *Antichrist*.

This exact Agreement of such large and express Numbers, seems to me very remarkable, and worthy of more than ordinary Consideration.

These Things being premised ; I shall now proceed to the Explanation and Interpretation of the Visions above mentioned.

1. The Year 1716 is pointed at in *St. John's* Vision of the Woman with Child, and her Flight into the Wilderness, *Rev. 12th.* Read the whole Chapter.

In this Vision we have a lively Representation of the Christian Church in her Native Splendor, first struggling and labouring, as thro' the lesser Uneasiness of Conception and Gestation ; and at last thro' the much greater Pains and Agonies of Travel, to advance Christianity to the Throne of the Empire ; that is, endeavouring first, thro' the lesser Difficulties, and smaller Persecutions of the former Emperors ; and then thro' the greater Violences and heavier Persecution of *Dioclesian*, and his Partners, to settle *Constantine*, a Christian, on the Throne of the Empire : And this by a continual Warfare against the great *Red Dragon*, who is stil'd *the old Serpent, and the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole World*, and who was the main Supporter and Upholder of that *Pagan Empire* in its ancient Idolatry and Persecution ; and under the Conduct of *Michael*, the *Archangel*, who zealously assisted the Endeavours of the Church with his heavenly Host, and prevail'd so far at last, that the Woman was safely delivered of a Christian Emperor, who was caught up to God, and to his Throne ; that is, fully settled, and established on the Throne of the Empire.

Now it is very remarkable to observe, that as from the Conception to the Birth in Woman with Child, is known to be 40 Weeks or 280 Days ; So it is as well known, that from our Saviour's Resurrection, A. D. 33. till the Advancement of Christianity by *Constantine* A. D. 313. was exactly 280 Years also.

But notwithstanding this glorious Success, and Delivery of the poor persecuted Christians ; yet the *Dragon*, (who was so lately cast down out of Heaven, when *Paganism* lost the Throne of the Empire) is so active and success-

successful, as to play an aftergame, and Distress the Church still, and to make her think of retiring into a Wilderness; in which Flight the Dragon casts a Flood out of his Mouth to carry her away, tho' thro' the Assistance of the Earth, which swallow'd up the Flood, and the help of the two Wings of the great Eagle, She escapes safely into the Wilderness. All which Things almost explain themselves; signifying plainly the great Hardships the Christians endured, even after Constantine came to the Throne, by the Oppositions and Persecutions of *Licinius*, *Julian* the Apostate, and others; and by the great Inundations of the barbarous and Heathen Nations, which in a little Time over-ran and shar'd the Empire among them. Which must inevitably have swallow'd up the Church, but for the Assistance of the two Wings of an Eagle; that is the Protection of the Eastern and Western Emperors, who had the Eagle for their Ensign.

Now this Protection of the Church by the Eastern and Western Emperors, must correspond to that Time, and that Time only when there were two Wings, or while both the Branches of the Empire continued in being together; which they did for the Space of 142 Years, till the Death of *Valentinian* the 3d. when the real Greatness and Dominion of the Western Empire ceased by the Inundations of the barbarous Nations, A. D. 455. At which Time the Dragon so far prevails, that the Woman is forced into a solitary and afflicted Condition for a Time, Times and a half, or 1260 days, from the Face of the Serpent; that is, by the Tyranny and Persecution of those barbarous Nations, and a little after of the Antichristian Powers, the Purest Part of the Christian Church began to be desolate and distressed; and was forced into a Sackcloth and Wilderness Condition, during all the Time of those Persecutions and Corruptions, for 1260 Years, that is, till the End of the Year 1715, or Beginning of the Year 1716. which puts an End to the prevailing Tyranny of *Antichrist*, and ushers in our Saviour's Glorious Kingdom.

2. The Year 1716 is meant in *St. John's* Vision of the two Witnesses prophecy in Sackcloth. *Rev.* 11. 2 to 14.

For the Truth of this Proposition, I refer my Reader to Part 1st of this Essay. All I think necessary to be done now, is, to give a short Interpretation of the Prophecy.

Now in this Vision, we have a plain Description of the *Waldenses* and *Albigenses*, the two antient and famous Witnesses against the Idolatry and Corruption of *Antichrist*, whose Churches were never wholly enslav'd to the Idolatry and Tyranny of the Church of *Rome*; and therefore they only can answer this Description of Prophecy in Sackcloth the whole 1260 Years of the Reign of the *Antichristian Powers*.

If any hurt them, they are to be destroyed on the Prayers of these Witnesses; and this is notoriously true of the *Vandois*, or *Waldenses* and *Albigenses*; who have frequently with very few, almost beyond Belief, overcome and destroyed their numerous Enemies. These two Witnesses towards the End of their *Sackcloth Condition*, or when they are about to finish their Testimony, that is, before the Conclusion of the 1260 Years are to be slain; their dead Bodies are to lie in that great City, which is spiritually call'd *Sodom* and *Egypt*, where also our Lord was crucified, i. e. within the Bounds of the *Roman Empire*, within whose Limits our Lord was crucified, or else in that broad and great City of *Rome*, or the Parts adjoining: For as in a mystical Sense she is call'd *Sodom* and *Egypt*; so in the same Sense she may be still'd *Jerusalem* too; As being the Head of the Christian Apostacy now, as *Jerusalem* was of the Jewish in Old Times. And the *Dead Bodies* of these Witnesses were not suffered to be buried for three Days and a half, during which Time their Enemies rejoiced over them: And after three Days and a half, the Spirit of Life entered into them, and they stood upon their Feet, and great Fear fell upon them which saw them. Now this has been exactly verified of the *Vandois* in our own Age, as will appear to any that will be at Pains to read their History, which in short is this.

The Duke of *Savoy* (now King of *Sicily*) the Sovereign of these *Vandois*, by an Edict dated Jan. 31. A. D. 1685. N. S. and enrolled April 10th. forbade the exercise of their Religion on Pain of Death, and there-
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in ordered their Churches to be demolished, and their Ministers to be banished. An Army of French and Savoy Troops were sent against them; who totally subdued them in the Month of May following; some of them were slain and barbarously murder'd; great Numbers cast into Prison and inhumanly used there, and the Remainder of them were at last permitted to depart from the Dominions of Savoy, Decem. 1686. and were kindly receiv'd and succour'd by Protestant Princes and States, till about 3 Years and a half after the Publication of the Edict for their Destruction towards the latter End of the Year 1689, they entered Savoy with their Swords in their Hands, recovered and established themselves in their antient Possessions, April 1690, notwithstanding the Opposition of the Troops of France and Savoy, of whom, they being very few slew great Numbers with inconsiderable Loss; till the Duke himself, who had now lost the French Interest by an Edict sign'd June 4. 1690, just $3\frac{1}{2}$ Years after their total Dissipation, recall'd the rest of them, with Liberty to the French Refugees themselves to return with them also. See Dr. *Allix*, *Jurieu*, &c. The Application here is so easily made, that I shall not trouble the Reader with any further Comment. The remaining Part of this Prophecy being yet future, I shall not attempt any Explanation of it, but pass on to the third Assertion.

3. The Year 1716 is aimed at in St. John's Vision of the Inner and Outer Courts of the Temple, Rev. 11. 1, 2.

In this Vision we have the future State of the Church from St. John's Days, distinguish'd into two Parts, answering to the two Courts of Ezekiel's Temple. The first State of the Church represented by the Inner Court, (wherein was the Temple it self; the Altar of Burnt-Offerings, and the Priests, who always worshipped there;) was to be so Pure and Regular, that it was to be measured by St. John; and distinguished from prophane to sacred Uses, or look'd upon as regular, holy, and sanctified, for 360 Prophetick Days, or Years. The latter State of the Church represented by the Outward Court, (wherein the Nation of the Israelites, or Layity of the Jews used alone to appear before God) was not to be measured, or set a-

part

part as holy ; but cast out and rejected, as unholy and prophane, being to be given to the *Gentiles* to tread it down and pollute it, for 42 Prophetick Months, or 1260 Days, that is, the Church of Christ shou'd continue comparatively pure, innocent, and holy, and free from Idolatry and Persecution, for 360 Years from the seeing of these Visions by St. *John*, A. D. 96. or till A. D. 456, and after that, *Antichristian* Idolatry, and Persecution and Impurity should infect it, and prevail over it, for 1260 years, or till A. D. 1716. the Time of the commencing of Christ's Glorious Kingdom.

Nôw if we look into the Histories of the Church, we shall find the Event has hitherto answered ; and therefore, we have no reason to fear, but what is yet future, will as certainly be fulfilled in its Season hereafter. For as to the most Primitive Ages of the Gospel ; the extraordinary Purity, Holiness, and undefil'd Religion, which then obtain'd, both as to the Faith, and Practice, and Discipline of the Church, it is too well known to need any Proof here. And as for the Time of the ceasing of this State of Purity and the Beginning of the Corrupt, Idolatrous State, we may appeal to History for Confirmation of our Assertion. As to the Church of *England* ; it exactly agrees with Her Opinion herein, which receives, the four first General Councils, and those only, as deserving of Belief and Subscription to their Decrees ; the Last of which was at *Chalcedon*, A. D. 451, just before the Conclusion of the pure State. And our Church looks upon the following Councils, as too corrupt for any Dependance on their Dictates afterwards ; and I think that other Protestant Churches, are not much different from our Opinion herein. And as the corrupt State of the Church has continued from that Time to this very Day, we need not at all doubt of its Conclusion at the End of the 1260 Years, or 1716. When we have great Reason to hope from this, and several other Prophecies in Scripture, that in *Daniel's* Phrase, the Sanctuary shall be cleansed, and the unhallow'd *Gentiles*, or *Antichristian* Idolators be cast out of the Temple, and the Purity of the Christian Worship be restor'd again.

4. The Year 1716 is intended in *St. John's* Vision of the Beast with 7 Heads and 10 Horns, or the *Roman Empire*, *Rev.* 13. 1, to 11.

In this Vision we have a dreadful and terrible Beast, raised up by the *Dragon*, upon the Woman's Arrival in the Wilderness; that is, an Empire advanc'd into great Power, in order to distress the Church, and to raise Persecutions against the Pure and undefiled Members of it. *Rev.* 12. 17, 18. The Beast has 7 Heads; 'tis an Empire founded on, and belonging to the seven hill'd City of *Rome*; and to be govern'd by 7 several sorts of Government. The Beast has also 10 Horns with 10 Crowns upon them, *i. e.* so many Kings, or Crowned Heads, over so many distinct Provinces, or Kingdoms, within the Compass of the same *Roman Empire*. He has upon all his 7 Heads Names of Blasphemy; *i. e.* All the 7 Forms of Government, under which the Empire had been, and was to be, were Idolatrous. This Beast receives his Power and Throne from the *Dragon*; *i. e.* the Devil seeing he could no longer support gross, and Pagan Idolatry in the *Roman Empire*, advances these 10 Kings into the Throne; who under the Christian Name, should yet really and effectually promote Idolatry still, tho' in a more covert manner, and by more cunning Pretences. This Beast had one of it's Heads wounded, *i. e.* The former Head of the *Cæsars* or *Emperors* was destroyed and the Empire utterly conquer'd by the barbarous Nations. And yet this mortal Wound was healed, *i. e.* Those barbarous Nations did not quite destroy the *Romans* and their Empire, but were gradually received into Society with them, became one united People and submitted to the Religion, and in great Part to the Laws of the *Roman Empire*. This Empire under its Ten Kings became very Large, and Proud, Blasphe- mous, and Idolatrous; and was permitted by God to Persecute his Saints, and Blaspheme his Name for 42 Months, *i. e.* 1260 Prophetick Days or Years. So that some few chosen Persons only, whose Names were Written in the Book of Life, durst oppose the or refuse Submission to their Wicked and Idolatrous Commands. And such as those are Comforted, with the Prospect of the End of their Faith and Patience.

in the Destruction of their Enemies ; And those Persecutors themselves are admonished to beware, how they proceed in their Cruelties, lest at the End, they be dealt with according to their Deserts, and severely repent of their unchristian Barbarity. This is a plain and obvious Paraphrase of this Prophecy. What remains to be done, is to fix the Time of the Rise of these 10 Kingdoms. Now 'tis evident from History that the *Roman Empire* was very entire at the Beginning of the fifth Century, the *Eastern* and *Western* Emperors possessing as many or more Countries and Provinces, than ever the *Roman Empire* contain'd before. And 'tis equally certain, that long before the End of that Century the *Roman Empire* was wholly parcel'd out into several Kingdoms among the *Barbarians* ; insomuch that the *Western Empire*, Name and Thing, was utterly extinct ; and the *Eastern* afterward had enough to do, to secure to it's self it's Neighbouring Provinces, with that of *Ravenna*, in *Italy*.

The Rise then of these ten Kingdoms I fix at A. D. 455, or 456. at the Death of *Valentinian* the 3d. For at that Time there were ten Kingdoms, formed out of the *Roman Empire*, tho' there were some Shadows of *Cæsars* for 21 Years afterwards.

These 10 Kingdoms, some will have to be, the *Alamanni*, *Franci*, *Anglo-Saxons*, *Burgundiones*, *Visigothi*, *Suevi*, *Vandali*, *Ostrogothi*, *Longobardi*, *Heruli*. Others, more authentickly reckon them thus. 1. The Empire of the *Greeks* at *Constantinople*. 2dly. Of the *Romans* at *Ravenna* ; A. D. 402. 3dly. The Kingdom of *Suevi* and *Alani*, A. D. 409. 4thly. The *Burgundians*, 413. 5thly. The *Visigoths*, 419. 6thly. The *Vandals*, 435. 7thly. The *Britains*, 447. 8thly. The *Ostrogoths*, 454. 9thly. The *Saxons*, 456. 10thly. The *Franks*, A. D. 457. See *Howell*, *Baronius*, and others.

Note here, That as the Kingdom of the *Franks* arose the Last of the 10 ; so it must compleat their Rise ; at which Time the *Antichristian State* was to begin, and to fall at their Dissolution, at the End of the 1260 Years. or 1716.

Observe further, That the Year 455, or 456. seems most proper for the Rise of the Beast ; since the same Year is the Date of the Woman's being fed in the Wilder-

reels, of the two Witnesses Prophesying in *Sackcloth*, and of the treading under Foot the *Outer Court* of the Temple : All which Prophecies, we have prov'd, to be cōtemporary, i. e. to begin and end together.

It may also deserve to be here observ'd, that as the Number of the Kingdoms into which the *Roman Empire* was originally divided, A. D. 456. was exactly ten, not reckoning some very small ones, either just then expiring, or at the utmost bounds of the Empire, or inconsiderable : So is it very nearly return'd again to the same Condition, and at present is divided into ten Grand or Principal Kingdoms and States, viz. *Germany, Savoy, Holland, Denmark, Sweden, Venice, France, Spain, Portugal, Great-Britain*. For tho' there are more Kingdoms and Dominions in *Europe* besides, yet are they out of the Bounds of the old *Roman Empire*, and therefore not so directly within our present Enquiry. Tho' even in that Case, I mean, if we take in all *Europe* or *Christendom*, (the famous *ἡ τριτων*, in the *Revelations*, or the third part of the then known *World*) the Number of Kingdoms, in the most proper Sense of crown'd Heads, is still more exactly ten, viz. *Hungary, Muscovy, Sweden, Denmark, Poland, France, Spain, Portugal, England, Sicily*. And for the other States or Dominions, they are, as before, either at the very Borders of the Old Empire, or in themselves very inconsiderable.

5. The Year 1716, is aimed at in St. John's Vision of the second Beast, with 2 Horns, like a Lamb, and in *Daniel's* Vision of the Little Horn, or *Pope of Rome*, Rev. 13. 11, &c. Dan. 7. 8. 20, 21, 25. In the first of these Visions, we have a plain Account of the Rise of *Antichrist*, or of the *Pope of Rome*, and his subordinate Hierarchy, having indeed the Appearance of a Lamb ; professing to be the Vicar of Christ, who is the Lamb of God ; Servant of the Servants of God ; Successor of the blessed Apostle St. Peter ; the great Pastor of the Church, to feed the *Flock of Christ* ; but speaking like a Dragon ; exalting himself above all that is called God ; Excommunicating and destroying Princes ; Absolving Subjects from their Allegiance ; Introducing new, false and pernicious Doctrines and Practices ; Commanding Idolatry, in the Worship of Angels, Saints, Images and Relicks ; Tyrannizing

over the Consciences of Men ; and Anathemizing all, who will not submit to his ungodly Doings. He exercises all the Power of the first Beast before him ; maintaining *Imperium in Imperio* ; requires the like, or greater, Submission to his Degrees, than the supreme Temporal Power expects ; and gives out all his Laws in the Sight, and by the Permission of the several Kings, by which the distinct Kingdoms of the *Roman Empire* are govern'd. He causes all to worship the first Beast, whose deadly Wound was healed, i. e. He is the common Center and Cement, which unites all those distinct Kingdoms ; And by joining with them procures them a blind Obedience from their Subjects ; and so he is the occasion of the Preservation of the Old *Roman Empire* in some Kind of Unity, and Name, of Strength. He also does, or seems to do a Multitude of strange Miracles, and pretends to Abundance of Lying Wonders ; by which he strangely prevails with, amuses, and enslaves the World ; and so deceives them to a blind and implicit Obedience to his Dictates. All which Characters are so peculiar to, and notorious in the *Pope*, and his subordinate Hierarchy, that I need spend no more Words about them.

As to the other Vision of the *Little Horn* in *Daniel* 7. 8, 11, 20. Whosoever pleases to compare the Texts with those of *St. John*, will find an exact Agreement between them, except in that Expression of the subduing of three Kings or Kingdoms, *Daniel* 7. 24. which were first that of the *Greeks*, or the Exarchate of *Ravenna*. Secondly, That of the *Lombards*. Thirdly, That of *Italy*, or the *Franks* there ; All which were destroyed by the Means and Interest of the *Pope*, to make Way for his own Temporal Grandeur. See *Mr. Mede*, p. 954. *Puffendorf's* *Introd.* p. 386, &c.

What is chiefly to be considered here, is the Time of the *Pope's* Rise, or the Beginning of the *Little Horn's* Time, Times and a Division of Time, or of 1110 Years Tyranny.

Now this we have prov'd ought to begin some Time after the Rise of the Ten Horns, or Ten Kingdoms of the *Roman Empire*, and to continue in Power no longer than they, viz. till the End of his 1110, and of their 1260 Years. So that the Date of the Exaltation of the *Papal* Power,

Power, is plain A. D. 606. 150 Years after the Rise of the 10 Kingdoms. And certainly nothing can agree better with History than this does.

For it was in the Year 606, that *Boniface* the 3^d. received from the Tyrant *Phocas*, the Stile of Head of the Church, and universal Bishop; and the *Popes* his Successors have claim'd that Title ever since, and on all Occasions have exercised an Usurped Power, agreeable to so presumptuous a Title, See Dr. *Heylin's Cosmog.* P. 105, &c. *Laund* against *Fisher*, P. 116. &c.

Since therefore the Power and Usurpation of the *Pope* or *Antichrist* began, A. D. 606, and his Duration is but 1110 Years as we have already observ'd, we have great Reason to expect an End of his Grandeur and Tyranny, at the same Time with that of the 10 Kings, A. Dom. 1716.

Since *St. John* in the End of the Description of the second Beast, gives us the Name of the first Beast by the Number 666, it will not be improper here to take Notice of it. And indeed the best Conjecture about it hitherto, is that of *Irenaeus*, soon after the seeing of these Visions; viz. the *Roman*, or *Latin* Empire, whose numeral Letters in the *Greek* ΛΑΤΕΙΝΟΖ amount exactly to the Number 666.

6. The Year 1716 compleats *Daniel's* 2300 Days or Evening Mornings, when the Sanctuary is to be cleansed, and no longer troden under Foot. D. 8. 14, 26.

By 2300 Evening-Mornings it is easy to understand so many Days, and those Days being Total-666 put for Years, it follows that if we add 551

(for so many Years before Christ, *Daniel* saw this Vision) to 1716, we find most exactly and surprizingly 2267 *Julian* Years, the same with 2300 *Chaldean* Years, and a few Days over. And thus we have the Year 1716 for the cleansing of the Sanctuary.

By the cleansing of the Sanctuary, we may understand. 1st. The End of the Churches Pollutions, the Abolishing the Corruptions, Idolatry, and Superstition of the Church of *Rome*, and the Restoring it, and other Branches of the *Catholic Church* to their Primitive Purity and Lustre.

2^{dly}. The Conversion and Restoration of the *Jews*, and their Rebuilding the Holy City of *Jerusalem*, after their long Captivity and Dispersion.

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Consult *If. 2. 1, 2, 3, 4. If. 60. 5, 10, 12, 13, 66,*
8. Ezek. 37. 22 to 28. The 11th ch. to the Romans,
 is full to this Purpose ; *I say then, hath God cast away his*
People ? God forbid ! v. 1. For I would not Brethren, that
 ye should be ignorant of this Mystery, that blindness in
 Part is happened unto *Israel*, until the fulness of the Gen-
 tiles be come in ; and so all *Israel* shall be saved, as it is
 Written ; There shall come out of *Sion* the Deliverer, and
 shall turn away Ungodliness from *Jacob*. Read also *Rev.*
11. 1, &c.

7. There nothing now Remains, but to add a Word or
 two, concerning the *Millenium*, or a flourishing State of
 the Church for 1000 Years. *Rev. 20. 4.* Now from this
 and other Passages of Scripture, I think, we may learn,
 That after the Fall of *Antichrist*, there shall be such a Glorious
 State of the Church, by the Conversion of the *Jews* to the
 Christian Faith, as shall be to it Life from the Dead ; that
 it shall then flourish in Peace and Plenty ; in Righteous-
 ness, and Holiness, and in a Pious Offspring ; that then
 shall begin a Glorious and Undisturbed Reign of Christ,
 over both *Jew* and *Gentile*, to continue 1000 Years, during
 the time of *Satan's* Binding. *Rev. 20. 2.* And this Church
 shall be compos'd of such, as had not receiv'd the Mark of
 the Beast, because of their entire freedom from all the
 Doctrines and Practices of the *Antichristian* Church ; and
 so shall the Spirit and Purity of the Primitive Church Re-
 turn, Flourish and Abound.

And now, to conclude ; If from these Predictions, we
 have good Reason to hope, He that testifieth these things,
 saith, surely, I come quickly ; then let all Good and Pious
 Christians Answer with one accord, *Amen. Even so come,*
Lord Jesus.

Soli Deo Gloria.

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